Study on Seismic Survey

1749. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain areas where earlier seismic surveys conducted by ONGC, OIL, and others failed to locate presence of hydrocarbons have shown positive results by subsequent surveys conducted by private sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to go into the causes for the failure of earlier surveys;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) At present, it is only after drilling of a well and production testing that the presence of hydrocarbons, crude oil and/or natural gas, is established. Various kinds of surveys, such as Gravity Magnetic and Seismic, only serve to indicate some probability of occurence of hydrocarbons. The success in discovery of hydrocarbons depends *inter alia* on the geological model of the area, which in turn keeps on getting refined with technological advancement and fresh data input. As such, revisiting exploratory acreages with refined models is an Upstream practice all over the world. Oil and natural gas discoveries have been made with improvement in technology, changes in geological insights after initial failures. As such, no adverse inference may be drawn about these failures nor is any study requisite.

Oil Reserve at Kutch

1750. SHRI KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has struck oil reserves at Kutch in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the size of the reserve well drilled; and

(c) by when the commercial exploration is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No oil discovery has been made in block CB-ONN-2000/1, awarded to the consortium comprising GAIL (India) Ltd. (GAIL) and Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPCL), the operator, in Cambay Basin under Second Round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

Age criteria for oil tankers

1751. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to ban the foreign oil tankers not meeting the age criteria defined by the Director General (DG) of shipping from 1st September; and

(b) if so, the details of the new guidelines set by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The guidelines on the issue has been issued *vide* S.D. Circular No. 7 of 2003 of Directorate General of Shipping. As per the guidelines, the charterers and oil terminal operators need to adhere to the following minimum guidelines, while in-chartering foreign flag oil tankers:

(i) Crude oil carriers with SBT/PL—below 25 years age

(ii) All product tankers with SBT/PL—below 25 years age

(iii) Chemical tankers—below 25 years age

(iv) Gas tankers to fully comply with GC/IGC Code—below 30 years age

(v) All tankers must be classed with major IACS Society, or the Indian Register of Shipping

(vi) All tankers above 20 years must have at least CAP 2 rating (for hull, machinery and cargo equipment) from IACS

(vii) Tanker charterers and Oil Terminals shall exercise due diligence in ensuring the quality of tankers in-chartered.